



FEBRUARY 2012

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Celebrating Black History Month

The A C Bilbrew Library Celebrates Black History Month with free programs highlighting authors, classic film screenings and discussions, an exhibit from the African-American Miniature Museum and more. The following schedule outlines the programs that will be held at A C Bilbrew Library located at 150 East El Segundo Boulevard in Los Angeles. For additional information, please call (562) 940-8462 or visit the County Library website at www.colapublib.org.

Saturday, February 11, Noon – 4 p.m.

Classic Film Screenings and Discussion

Cabin in the Sky

1943 film starring Ethel Waters, Eddie ‘Rochester’ Anderson, and Lena Horne

Stormy Weather

1943 musical starring Lena Horne, Bill Robinson, and Cab Calloway

Films and exhibit courtesy of The Mayme A. Clayton Library & Museum



Wednesday, February 15, 3:30 – 6 p.m. (Opening Program)

Thursday, February 16,

Noon – 5 p.m.

Friday, February 17,

Noon – 5 p.m.

Saturday, February 18,

Noon – 4 p.m. (Closing

Reception)

The African-American Miniature Museum Exhibit

Courtesy of creator and curator, Karen Collins



Saturday, February 25, 2 p.m.

Erin Aubry Kaplan Book Signing and Discussion

Journalist and author Erin Aubry Kaplan will present her book, “Black Talk, Blue Thoughts, and Walking the Color Line: Dispatches from a Black Journalista.”

Did You Know?

In 1951, **Henrietta Lacks** was diagnosed with terminal cervical cancer at Johns Hopkins University, where a doctor removed cells from her cervix without her permission as part of an ongoing attempt to harvest human cells in a laboratory environment. Lacks’ cells stayed alive and continued to grow indefinitely. For the last 60 years, **HeLa** cells have been cultured and used throughout the world in scientific experiments, including those that led to the polio vaccine.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Center Theatre Group

www.centertheatregroup.org

World City™ – FREE

February 11– Sounds and Rhythms of Afghanistan & Ballet Afsanah

Active Arts® – FREE

February 10 through Mar 10 – Apply to Public Practice

Ahmanson Theatre

May 3 through June 9 – Follies

Mark Taper Forum

Through February 26 – Clybourne Park

Kirk Douglas Theatre

Through February 19 – A Raisin in the Sun

Los Angeles Opera

(performances at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion)

www.losangelesopera.com

February 11 through March 4 – Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*

February 25 through March 17 – Britten's *Albert Herring*

Kodak Theater

Now playing – Cirque du Soleil: IRIS

Natural History Museum

900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles 90007

(213) 763-DINO

www.nhm.org

Now open – New Dinosaur Hall and Fin Whale Passage

The Ford

2580 Cahuenga Boulevard East, Hollywood 90068

(323) 461-3673

www.FordTheatres.org

Through February 26 – No Good Deed

Visit <http://hr.lacounty.gov>
for information on employment
opportunities with the
County of Los Angeles



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Submissions to the DIGEST may be
edited or otherwise altered for clarity.

Check out the DIGEST at

<http://dhrdcap.co.la.ca.us/jic/digest/>

The Civil Rights Movement Impacts Work Ethic

Spiller Credits Dedication and Leadership of the Civil Rights Movement with Developing Her Strong Work Ethic



Sheryl L. Spiller, Acting Director of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) will be the first to credit a large part of her success in the County of Los Angeles to doors opened by African-American leaders of the past who had the courage and determination to implement change.

The observance of Black History Month, also referred to as African-American Heritage Month, is a special reminder of the hot summer day in 1967 when Spiller, fresh out of Centennial High School in Compton, traveled to the County Hall of Administration in downtown Los Angeles with friends in search of summer jobs.

Spiller's search was successful, beginning her employment as a typist clerk, with the County's Bureau of Public Assistance. One year later, the agency was changed to DPSS.

Spiller remembers the many significant events during the civil rights period, including the 1967 riots that attracted national attention when vice officers raided a Detroit nightclub in a predominantly black neighborhood where a party was taking place to celebrate the return of two black Vietnam veterans.

A year later, Spiller, along with millions around the world, mourned the loss of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was murdered by a sniper's bullet as he stood on the balcony outside his hotel room in Memphis, Tennessee. The same year, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968.

Fast forward over four decades later, Spiller was sworn in August 2011 as the first African-American to head DPSS, temporarily taking over the reins from Philip L. Browning, who is Interim Director for the County's Department of Children and Family Services.

Patterning her actions after the significant accomplishments of the civil rights movement, Spiller takes her responsibility to serve over 2.2 million of the County's neediest residents with desperately needed services very seriously. She has built her career with a combination of ability, front-line work, strategic savvy and a solid commitment to helping those around her to grow and perform at their highest potential.

February is... American Heart Month

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. One in every three deaths is from heart disease and stroke which equal to 2,200 deaths per day. Here's what you can do to help prevent heart disease:



- Get up and get active by being physically active for at least 30 minutes on most days of the week.
- Find out if you have high blood pressure or cholesterol. If you do, get effective treatment.
- If you smoke, get help to quit. Call 1 (800) NO BUTTS (1-800-662-8887).
- Make your calories count by eating a heart-healthy diet high in fresh fruits and vegetables and low in sodium and trans fat.



Public Library to Host Digital Bookmobile National Tour Event

Free digital titles with just a library card and an Internet-connected computer, smartphone, or tablet

The Digital Bookmobile National Tour (www.digitalbookmobile.com) will stop at two County Public Libraries. The Digital Bookmobile will showcase the free eBook download service at the Angelo M. Iacaboni Library on Tuesday, February 21, from noon to 6:00 p.m. and at the Carson Library on Wednesday, February 22, from noon to 6:00 p.m. At these free events, readers of all ages will learn how to download eBooks and audiobooks from the library through interactive demonstrations and instructional videos. A gadget gallery—featuring Kindle®, iPod® Touch, Android™ tablet, NOOK™, Sony® Reader™, BlackBerry®, Windows® Phone, and more—will help visitors discover portable devices that are compatible with the library's download service.

The Digital Bookmobile is a service of the County Public Library and is operated by OverDrive, Inc. To check out and download digital books and more, visit <http://colapublib.org/downloads/>.

Probation POWERS That Be

On December 19, 2011, Jerry Powers was publicly sworn in as the County's 19th Chief Probation Officer and leads a department of over 6,200 employees which includes more than 4,000 officers. The Los Angeles County Probation Department is the largest Probation Department in the United States. Kerri Webb, the department's Public Information Officer, sat down with Chief Powers to ask a few questions about his first two months at the helm.



Kerri Webb: Prior to coming to Los Angeles County, you were the Chief Probation Officer (CPO) of the Stanislaus County Probation Department, a much smaller department. Is there a difference in the way you would do things here?

Chief Powers: Leadership is leadership. There's no possible way anyone can directly supervise over 6,000 people. In this job, you learn how to delegate. I'm not intimidated by size. The office of the CPO in this County looks the same. There's a chief deputy who has a staff of assistant chiefs who have people who report to them, and so on. So the job itself is the same. I work with about the same amount of people here who report to me directly as I did in Stanislaus.

Kerri Webb: What are the concerns that you wish to address here in Los Angeles that may be different from Stanislaus?

Chief Powers: The concerns in Stanislaus County were pretty much the same concerns we have here in Los Angeles County, such as how to work within the budget, how to provide services to our citizens, employee matters, the state's realignment plan, etc. Los Angeles County has its unique qualities and so far that's been the only big adjustment, really. It's how to go about negotiating those qualities that make Los Angeles unique.

Kerri Webb: In the short amount of time you've been here, how do you like the job so far?

Chief Powers: I'm enjoying getting to know everyone and learning more about the County. Everyone has been very supportive when introducing themselves to me saying that they're glad I'm here and are genuinely eager to make the department successful and progressive.

Kerri Webb: What made you decide to come to Los Angeles?

Chief Powers: I like a challenge. You can't be a successful CPO if you don't enjoy challenges. I consider myself a problem solver. What better place than Los Angeles to work towards solving problems. Personally, I want to work for a department that is progressive, effective and respected. I want people to be proud to work for the County's Probation Department. I want people to understand what we do and that we're doing great things.

Kerri Webb: Did former Chief Donald Blevins give you any parting 'pearls of wisdom' before he resigned?

Chief Powers: I consider Don a friend and respected colleague whom I've known for many years. Throughout the years, he has given me 'pearls of wisdom.'

Black History Month

Black History Month celebrates the contributions that African-Americans have made to American history and culture.

Black history has been recognized annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." We owe the celebration of Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history, to Harvard graduate Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

Woodson decided to take on the challenge of writing black Americans into the nation's history and established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History) in 1915, and a year later founded the widely respected Journal of Negro History. In 1926, he launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history.

Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the African-American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

In the decades that followed, mayors of cities across the country began issuing yearly proclamations recognizing Negro History Week. By the late 1960s, thanks in part to the Civil Rights Movement and a growing awareness of black identity, Negro History Week had evolved into Black History Month on many college campuses. President Gerald R. Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Since then, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme. Today, the County of Los Angeles proudly commemorates Black History Month and celebrates the endless achievements by African-Americans within its ranks and their role in the United States history.



Los Angeles County
African American Employees Association



SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, February 23, 2012

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH
CELEBRATION**

"Living In the Midst of the Dream."

Kenneth Hahn
Hall of Administration
Third Floor

HONOREE: Crystal Eagle Award Recipient
Dr. Maulana "Ron" Karenga
Creator of "Kwanzaa"



Brian J. Stiger to Head Consumer Affairs

Stiger Joins as Director After Decades of Success in Sacramento

Brian J. Stiger was sworn in as the Director of Consumer Affairs on January 17. He replaces Pastor Herrera, Jr., who retired in January 2010 after nearly 20 years as Director.

In 1993, Stiger began his career with the California State Department of Consumer Affairs and was appointed Acting Director in 2009.

With a wealth of experience in consumer protection and more than two decades of service at the state level, Brian J. Stiger certainly fits the bill of carrying out the vision of the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). The vision for the DCA is “promoting and advocating a fair and vibrant marketplace for consumers, businesses and communities.”

According to Stiger, the County’s close relationship with the public played a role in seeking his new position.

“I’ve had the pleasure of working with Los Angeles County DCA for many years. I know Pastor and all the good work done in this department,” Stiger said. “County DCA gets involved in any consumer issue out there. I have a passion for consumer protection and want to work directly with consumers.”

Coming from the larger state government structure, Stiger said his experience with County employees has always been pleasant.

“Every interaction or meeting I’ve had with County employees has just been top shelf. They’ve been inviting, helpful, professional, and warm,” he said. “It’s really clear in my mind that County employees are a family. It’s easy to tell that and it’s very positive.”

Stiger looks forward to incorporating his leadership skills with the County DCA’s long tradition of excellence. His experience at the state level should allow for greater cooperation and partnerships for County Consumer Affairs staff.

“I want to try to figure out how to leverage our resources with those of the state so our constituents are better protected,” Stiger said. “We don’t want to overlap, just augment.”

After his swearing-in ceremony, Chief Executive Officer William T Fujioka joked that Stiger will have to start supporting the Lakers or Clippers instead of his hometown Sacramento Kings.

“I’ve spent 37 years in Sacramento. My entire family is there and I never thought I’d leave there,” Stiger said. “Moving here is a big transition, but I’m thrilled to be here.” Stiger is married with two daughters and a son.



From left to right: William T Fujioka, Brian J. Stiger and Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich.

If you have consumer issues or questions, contact the Department of Consumer Affairs at (800) 593-8222 or dca.lacounty.gov.



27th Annual “Women of the Year” Awards Luncheon

On March 12, the L.A. County Commission for Women and the Board of Supervisors will host its prestigious 27th Annual “Women of the Year” Awards Luncheon at the Crystal Ballroom, Millennium Biltmore Hotel, 506 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles.

In 1975, the Commission for Women was established to represent special interests and concerns of women of all races, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, religious convictions, social circumstances and sexual orientation. The Commission also recognizes outstanding women who have made a difference in the lives of women throughout the County.

For more information, visit the Commission’s website at <http://laccw.info>. You may register online at <http://bosevents.lacounty.gov>. For more information, contact the County Commission for Women office at (213) 974-1455.

Experience the Uplifting Power of Evidence, A Dance Company



Founded and based in Brooklyn, New York in 1985, **Evidence, A Dance Company** focuses on the seamless fusion of traditional African dance with contemporary choreography and spoken word. Artistic Director/Choreographer Ronald K. Brown uses movement to reinforce the importance of community in African-American culture, thus acquainting and inspiring audiences with the beauty of traditional African forms and rhythms.

Praised by *The New York Times* as “one of the most profound choreographers of his modern dance generation,” Brown blends modern dance with traditional and social dances from the U.S., Africa and the Caribbean to tell stories that illuminate powerful aspects of the human experience.

On March 9, 10 and 11, **Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at the Music Center** will welcome **Evidence, A Dance Company** to the **Music Center’s Ahmanson Theatre**. This thrilling engagement will feature the West Coast premiere of *On Earth Together* set to the music of R&B legend Stevie Wonder and Brown’s critically acclaimed *Grace*, which is also in the repertory of the Alvin Ailey® American Dance Theater.

For tickets and information to **Evidence, A Dance Company**, visit musiccenter.org or call (213) 972-0711.

For a limited time, mention code **18781*** to receive 20% off tickets to the March 9 performance.

**Valid in Main Orchestra, Front Mezzanine, Center Mezzanine, Rear Orchestra and Rear Mezzanine A. Expires February 20, 2012. For online orders, select valid performance and click “Buy Tickets.” Enter the promo code in the promo code box located in the top right corner of the ticketing page and click “submit” before selecting seating level. No refunds, cancellations or exchanges. Artists and program subject to change.*



Be a Pollworker

Upcoming Elections

1. June 5, 2012 - Presidential Primary Election
2. November 6, 2012 - Presidential General Election

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County Welcomes Chinese Delegation from Guangdong Province

Chief Deputy Alisa Katz of the Third Supervisorial District welcomed a 20-member delegation from China's Guangdong Province who visited the County in January. She extended greetings on behalf of Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman, and members of the Board.

The County's Quality and Productivity Commission (QPC), led by Chair Bill Sullivan, served as host for the meeting. Commissioners Huasha Liu and Ed McIntyre and QPC managers Catherine Mak and Lawrence Oghenekohwo attended the meeting.

Assistant Chief Executive Officer Martin Zimmerman, Assistant Protocol Manager Glenda Wina and Alternate Public Defender staff member Gary Baucum provided briefings on the County's efficiency initiative, protocol, and quality and productivity efforts, respectively. QPC also included a video presentation on the Board members and an overview of the County, including clips from a recent Board meeting.

Following the presentations, Sullivan and QPC Executive Director Victoria P. Lane engaged in a traditional gift

exchange with the leader of the delegation, Mr. Guangda Liu, Division Director, Commission Office for Public Sector Reform.

The delegation was from Guangdong Province's Commission Office for Public Sector Reform, as well as representatives from the states of Guangzhou, Zhuhai, Heyuan, Meizhou, Dongwan, Zhongshan, Yangjiang, Zhaoqing, Qingyuan, Chaozhou, Jieyang and Yunfu.



From left to right: Bill Sullivan, Guangda Liu, Alisa Katz, Martin Zimmerman and Glenda Wina. (Photo: Scott Harms)



Quality and Productivity Commission Productivity Investment Fund

The Productivity Investment Fund provides grants and loans to departments for creative and innovative projects that:

- improve service delivery,
- improve efficiency of operations, or
- generate cost savings.

The Commission accepts proposals quarterly. The remaining 2012 dates are:

April 13, 2012

July 13, 2012

October 12, 2012

For further information, visit <http://qpc.co.la.ca.us> or call (213) 974-1390.

Retirees

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after their many years of service to Los Angeles County:

40+ Years

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Kathryn E. Regan
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Pamela S. Dubin
COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES: Patricia E. Senette-Holt
COUNTY COUNSEL: Karen A. Lichtenberg
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Mary Joe Jakubowski
HEALTH SERVICES: Bettye J. Domino-Johns, Emerita G. Juarez, Rosemarie Rimer, Ruth N. Towns
INTERNAL SERVICES: Michael Henderson, Janice N. Sadahiro
MENTAL HEALTH: Laurie A. Balderrama
PARKS AND RECREATION: Renee Jackson
PROBATION: Curtis J. Mc Clendon
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Jerry D. Hobbs, Aida N. Prieto, Shirley M. Williams
PUBLIC WORKS: Judy M. Rivera

30+ Years

BEACHES & HARBORS: Eric Wilson
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Susan Barrera
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Alice Gonzalez
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Mildred L. Green, Joseph D. Shidler
FIRE: Michal A. Ashley, Edward M. Broomfield, Glenn R. Brown, Val D. Chacon, Robert L. Graham, Gregory P. Prancevic
HEALTH SERVICES: Nelly Ado, Clotilde Andres, Robert C. Berry, Farid Bactor, Linda V. Cavazos-Bola, Valerie Cooray, Ann Marinovich, Gladys Perez, Carolina Salacup, Pauline Smith, John C. Walker
INTERNAL SERVICES: Michael W. Burnham, Alton L. Deyampert, Jesse Scott Jr.
PUBLIC HEALTH: Joyce A. Stevens
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Dorris M. Bearden, Betty Coleman, Cynthia Dobrovodsky, Salah A. El Nahass, Madeline L. Reynolds, Maria Rivera, Kim-Trinh L. Tran
PUBLIC WORKS: William E. Banks, Dennis Denby, Kitty H. Shih, Marvin E. Barrett
SHERIFF: Bruce E. Abbott, Doreen A. Alcaraz, Lawrence J. Belden, Frank E. Carey, Jaime Castro, Prudencian C. Fukasawa, Larry W. Gilson, Robert A. Harms, Catherine M. Hock, Susan M. Kopperud, Michael K. Kwan, Eugene Lindsey, Christophe M. Neeper, Arthur Ng, William P. Roermernann, Judy F. Smith, Cathy R. Stapleton, Mark A. Shoemaker, Steven J. Wheatcroft
SUPERIOR COURT: Faye Murata, Doreen K. Parker

25+ Years

ASSESSOR: Gerald Velia
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Mireya Soria
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Toni G. Harris
COUNTY COUNSEL: Leela Kapur
FIRE: Cindy A. Cleveland, Martin H. Livingston
PROBATION: Mary D. Booker
PUBLIC HEALTH: Dennis E. Jackson, Juliana Ramirez, Michael Rodrigues
PUBLIC LIBRARY: Marilee A. Stefenhagen
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Socorro Carrion, Prema Doraiswamy, James A. Jenkins, Carlos A. Santacruz, Jay M. Slevin
PUBLIC WORKS: Salman A. Khan
SHERIFF: Paul Q. Delhauer, Robert D. Ichikawa, Kenneth W. Skarin, Michael K. St. Amand, Frank E. Williams
SUPERIOR COURT: John N. Riley, Diana Thurman
TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR: Amalia Valencia

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 Los Angeles Lakers
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Share It

New California Law Changes Child Passenger Safety Requirements

A Public Safety Announcement from the Department of Public Health

A new California law went into effect on January 1 that imposes safer requirements for children 16 years of age and younger when riding in a motor vehicle.

The law, SB 929, requires the following:

- A child **under age eight** must be “properly buckled” into a car seat or booster seat in the backseat of a motor vehicle.
- A child **age eight or older** may use the vehicle’s seat belt if “properly buckled.” The term “properly buckled” means: 1) The horizontal part of the seat belt is across the child’s lap (not stomach); 2) The diagonal part of the seat belt crosses the center of the child’s chest. If the child cannot be properly buckled in this manner, he or she must ride in a booster seat.
- Everyone in the car must be properly buckled. For each child under the age of 16 who is not properly secured, the driver and parent of that child who is not the driver, can be fined more than \$475 and receive one point on their driving record.

When children are not properly buckled, they are three times more likely to be severely injured in a car crash.

5-Step Test for Using a Vehicle Seat Belt

Once a child reaches age eight, parents should use this simple 5-step test to determine if the child can safely ride with a seat belt alone.

1. Can the child sit all the way back against the auto seat?
2. Does the child’s knees bend naturally over the front of the seat?
3. Does the horizontal lap belt cross the top of the hips/thighs, not the tummy?
4. Is the diagonal shoulder belt centered on the shoulder and chest?
5. Can the child stay seated in this position for the whole trip?

If the answer is NO to any of the steps above, the child must remain in a booster seat.



Key Safety Points for Parents

- Set a good example for your child by using a seat belt on every trip, no matter how short the trip.
- Ensure that your child is properly secured in a car seat, booster seat, or seat belt on every trip.
- Always read the child seat manufacturer’s instructions and the vehicle owner’s manual for important information on height and weight limits and how to install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system.
- Keep an infant in a rear-facing seat as long as possible, ideally until age two or until the infant reaches the upper weight and height limit for that particular seat.
- Never seat a child in front of an airbag.
- Keep your child in the backseat until age 13.